

The GARzette

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
September 2009 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 18, Issue 9

Voting receiver removed from Gwinnett water tower

David, KA4KKF, and others at foot of towers.
Photo by Brian Page, N4TRB



When Gwinnett County's iconic water towers near Jimmy Carter Boulevard are taken down later this year, not only will the county lose two landmarks – GARS will lose the perch upon which it had mounted a voting receiver for its 147.075 MHz repeater. According to repeater manager *Eddie Foust, WD4JEM*, that receiver had been on top of the "Success Lives Here" tower since 1995.

A work party headed by Foust took down the antennas and feedlines on Aug. 1. Among those working included: *David Adcock KA4KKF*; *Rich Arland, K7SZ*; *Ryan Duncan, KI4CSM*; *Harold Hawkins, KD8DVY*; *Larry Long, K9LAR*; *Brian Page, N4TRB*; *Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ*; *Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV*; and *Earl Whatley, AF4FG*. Foust himself had removed the receiver a few days before.

How did the operation go? "Very smoothly," Foust said. "No hitches. It went according to plan."

But the absence of the Norcross voting receiver – which covered southern Gwinnett County – will be noted. "It's going to affect [the repeater's ability to receive], especially with lower-power stations, handhelds and that," Foust said. Gwinnett's topography is "a whole series of little ridges and valleys, with nothing really high and nothing really low," he added – that's why the repeater needs remote receivers to "see" down into the valleys.

Will there be a new remote site to replace the set-up on the water tower? Maybe. But don't expect it to happen tomorrow.

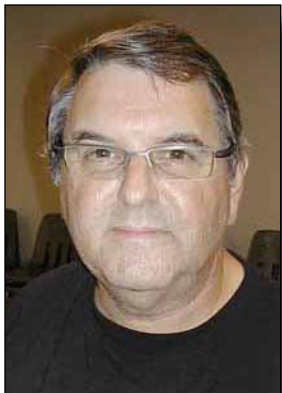
"We are working with some people on a couple possible remote sites that will give us nearly equal or maybe better coverage," Foust said. "But it's probably not going to happen very fast at this point because of having to go through all the approvals."

A note from the President

Wow, a new GARzette hot off the press. First change in the format in years and I'm excited about the change. Haven't seen one as of the time of this writing, but I will have seen it before you receive this note. Everyone please thank Jim Massara, N2EST, for taking over the responsibility for our monthly newsletter.

Another weekend at the dog show has come and gone. There was great attendance by club members. I'm not sure how we escaped the rain. I'm just about over it and it's only months until the next one.

I'm sure most of you know we removed a remote receiver from the water tanks near Jimmy Carter and Buford Highway. This leaves us with a little hole in the repeater coverage in that part of the county. We are looking for another



**Norm Schklar
WA4ZXV**

location and hope to have some answers soon on a possible replacement. From my residence in Norcross, I'm ok with an outside antenna or a full power mobile, but have a little trouble with the hand held.

ARES has recently held two exercises. These help us respond quicker and smarter to emergency management call outs. If you missed them, or are not a member of Gwinnett ARES, you may be missing an opportunity to help your community in a time of need. ARES does require minimal certification to qualify for deployment. You can't just drop by and be deployed in times of need; you need to practice and become part of the team.

For those of you interested in 6 and 10 meter activity, take a look at vhfdx.net and the real time maps. They let you know what activity others are reporting. What's your favorite tool for following propagation?

Looking for someone to talk to? Monday GARS and ARES VHF Nets, Wednesday 6 meter GARS net, Saturday there's the 10 meter Margarita net and weekdays the GA SSB net on 75 meters. These are just a few. There are hundreds more. Some are listed on the GARS.org web site.

Take a few Ham Radio photos, put them up on the GARS yahoo group, send them to Jim for use in the GARzette. You might even write a few words about the activity. It would be a big help to Jim.

Don't miss a review of Crew 73 activities and some neat show and tell at the September 8th meeting.

73 and hope to hear you soon.

Norm, WA4ZXV

Other officers:

Earl Whatley, AF4FG, VP
Randy Collins, N4COR, secretary
Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ, treasurer
Kyle Albritton, W4KDA, prog. man.

Board of Directors

David Adcock, KA4KKF
John Davis, WB4QDX
David Bruse, W4DTR

The GARzette is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to n2est@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The GARzette articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to The GARzette.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK, does the final production work on The GARzette by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional info contact:

Newsletter Editor:

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(678) 380-8025
n2est@arrl.net

GARS members were given the VIP treatment on Aug. 13 when they went to watch the Gwinnett Braves beat the Durham Bulls. Doug Kregel, KB6RRX, had a particularly good time. "I was able to catch a ball while they had been practicing before the game. Souvenir!"



Photo by Doug Kregel, KB6RRX



Photo by Dave Bruse, W4DTR

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

WD4STR
145.060 - (600KHZ)
440.550 + (5MHZ)

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

GARS helps organize Memorial Day parade

Did you see the article about the GARS entry in the 2009 Dacula Memorial Day parade? Neither did anyone else – unless you looked closely. A great article about the parade with lots of pictures appeared in the *Gwinnett Daily Post* on Tuesday. There were more participants than in any of the past 15 parades. More than 300 vehicles and countless folks including a drum corps, National Guard vehicles, antique tractors, antique cars, scout troops and floats showed up to honor America's veterans. And GARS entered every one of them (all in the proper order and mostly on time).

At 9:59 AM the parade chairman, Marvin Atherton (KG4FHB), instructed us to hold the start of the parade so a speech could be delivered without the noise of sirens drowning it out. Five minutes later the mayor of Dacula, Jimmy Wilbanks, told us to tell Marvin that unless the parade started immediately he would revoke the parade permit. It was all in fun but we dutifully passed the message via radio. In any event the parade

started soon thereafter.

Radio played an important part in organizing the participants. If you have ever wondered how much radio traffic can be generated when 800 people and their vehicles arrive at one location within a two hour period just come to next year's parade. It was good training in proper radio procedures during a hectic period and great practice as well as a lot of fun. GARS came through again and special thanks are due all who helped out.

Among those who worked were: Paul Branson, KA4YZR; Fred Hoffler, W3TLC; Eddie Faust, WD4JEM; Dave Bruse, W4DTR; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Rob Hoppe, KI4SBT; Stephen Richardson, KJ4STR; Ken Dalton, KI4BQS; Perry Luthi, KI4YYY; Pau Kelley, W4KLY; Danny Kelley, KI4KXO; Jim Massara, N2EST; Joel Barrett, W4JOL; Rob Milby, KD4MZU; Lisa Milby, KI4VDN; David Adcock KA4KKF; Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV; Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Steve Black, WB2OGY; Larry Long, K9LAR; and Ryan Haney, KJ4DRN.

-- Earl Whatley, AF4FG

Adcock says he just 'plays on the radio – and he likes it'

David Adcock, KA4KKF, has been a licensed ham for 30 years – and GARS member for about half of that time. It's little wonder, then, that he's taken on so many club activities over the years. He's been activity manager, newsletter editor, webmaster, dog-show organizer, Field Day chairman, and eventually club president. In fact, there's little that he *hasn't* done as a GARS member. Adcock simplifies it: "I just play on the radio and play on the computer. And I like it."

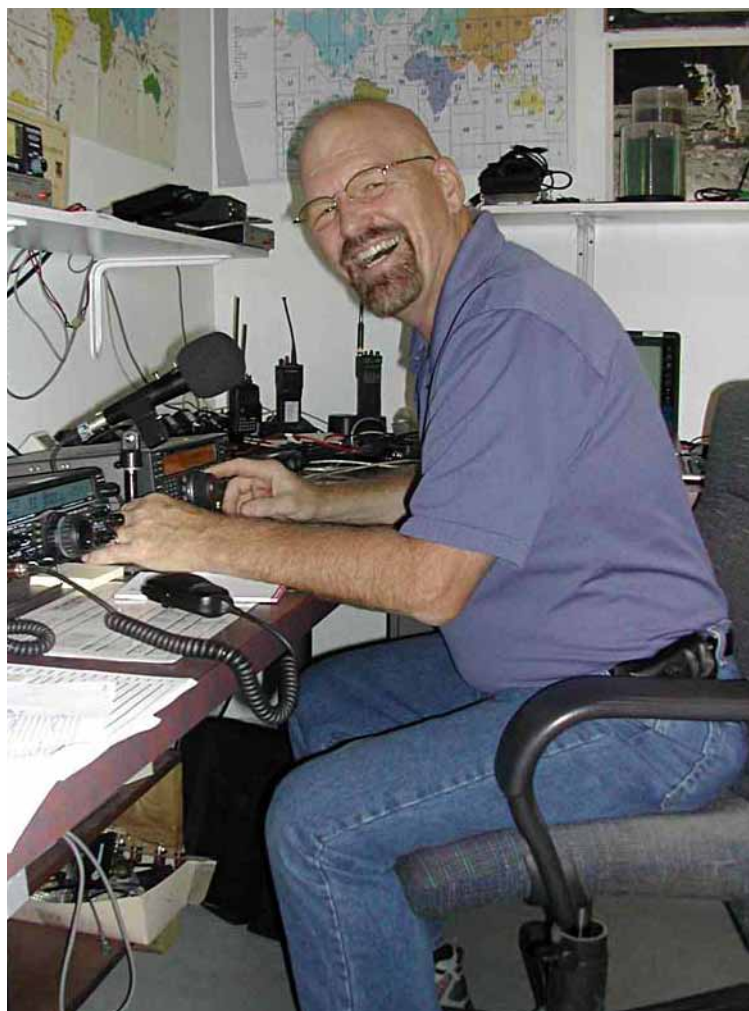
Adcock came to the hobby the way many youngsters do: through a pair of cheap walkie-talkies. He learned a little about shortwave radio that way. A few more years pass, and he graduated to CB. Next he started attending hamfests, where he bought his first rigs, a Heathkit DX-60 transmitter and a Radio Shack Realistic DX-160 receiver.

About this time Adcock took the National Technical School correspondence course. "I built a Heathkit 25-inch color TV and all the test equipment that went with it," Adcock says. "That was the year before I went to Virginia and met Al."

"Al" was Al Bianchi, now K4UX, one of Adcock's first Elmers. They met when both were in the Navy. Bianchi eventually gave Adcock his Novice test, which he passed (of course!).

During this time Adcock studied electronics to improve his technical expertise. "I was just an electronics technician in the Navy, but I didn't know electronics that well," he says. "Just the basics, you know. So I took all that and built TVs, and the radios we were working with."

By the early 1990s Adcock had moved to Atlanta and had finally installed a 2-meter FM rig in the car. That was where he met GARS



KA4KKF in his shack (left) and working with his "go-box" (below)

members through the repeater. And the rest, shall we say, is history ...

Adcock's shack is a corner desk with all of his rigs on it. He points to his "go-box", a converted toolbox stuffed full of radio gear and batteries. It stays plugged in all day so it will be charged should an emergency arise.

Among Adcock's favorite activities are checking into GARS nets, and playing with DStar. He says: "DStar would probably evolve to take the place of analog repeaters. It won't happen right away, but it will probably come around. It's kind of like FM replacing SSB on 2 meters."

Any goals for GARS? "I just want make sure the club continues on. I doubt I'll run for office again. But I'll help anybody who needs help."

-- Jim Massara, N2EST



GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule.

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m.
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7 p.m.
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street, Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 a.m.
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9 a.m.
Marietta First United Meth. Church
Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave.
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(707)973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7 p.m.
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd.
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3-5 p.m.

**Do you know a boy or
girl
14 to 21 years old who
wants to:
Climb, Hike
Canoe, Camp
Talk on amateur radio
Have Fun**

**Tell them about
Venture Crew
73**

**We meet the second
Tuesday
of each month prior to
the GARS meeting at
St. Marguerite D'Youville
Church.**

**For more information
Visit
www.venturecrew73.org**

Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 S. Perry St.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
(770)-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218
77 Atlantic Dr.
www.w4aql
Alexander G. Carver
(404)894-2936
acarver@ece.gatech.edu

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist
Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd
& Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League
Masonic Lodge
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, Georgia
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Adventures in Huntsville

Redstone Arsenal, the army's rocket headquarters and the home of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, is the reason for Huntsville's success. Almost every industry in town is there because of the presence of these two giants so just about the entire working population of the city is dependent on them for their job. Is it any wonder that when the army says they want the Von Braun Center for a symposium the city obliges and moves the Huntsville Hamfest to the corners of the center? They separated the dealers and the flea market by a 5 minute walk and put the parking 5 minutes beyond that. So there was a lot more walking this year but it was still a great hamfest and it was all indoors and all air conditioned.

There were over 40 dealers including all the major ones, and the flea market sold out all 258 tables. It took a while to see everything especially since it was so crowded, but if you couldn't find it here its not available. I didn't hear a count on attendance but it seemed there were more people than the 5000 who attended last year.

There were 35 forums but I only went to 3 this year including one hosted by our own John Davis, WD4QDX, and Ed Woodrick, WA4YIJ. I really went just to heckle them but they packed a lot of information into the hour and they got the better of me. I really got interested and I want a D-Star radio now. Thanks a lot guys!

Ralph, KJ4CNC, and I attended a forum on sunspots. One of the advantages of having the Marshall Space Flight Center nearby is that there are a lot of smart people to give such forums. Because solar activity affects satellites, shuttle launches, communication (read military

communication) and other high altitude stuff, NASA has a PhD, Dr. David Hathway, on staff just to keep up with them. He told us a lot of stuff we didn't understand (you were right, Ralph, most of it was rocket science) but the gist of it is that the sunspot minimum was last November/December and his latest prediction is that cycle 24 will be good (but not great) and it will peak in 2013. Of course, this is the guy who predicted in 2007 that we would be well into cycle 24 by March 2008. Still, he was interesting even if I didn't understand all of what he said.

I only had a few complaints.

1. There was no coffee available in the center before the hamfest opened.

2. I didn't win anything.
(They gave away over 25 prizes on Saturday. The grand prize was a Yaesu 950.)

3. I couldn't go to all the forums.
(OK, some I really didn't want to hear.)

4. I spent too much money.
(Don't tell my wife.)

5. I didn't have more money to spend. (She already knows.)

6. Did I mention there was no coffee available before they opened? (This is very important to someone who left Lawrenceville early Saturday.)

My wife's family lives in the Huntsville area so I already know I'll go back next year and even if they didn't, I'd make the trip just to go to this mini Dayton. And if sunspot



numbers haven't picked up by 2010 I'll go just to heckle Dr. Hathway. In any event, they have promised that the hamfest will be back to its old location in the main hall in 2010. That will make it a shorter walk to the car to store all the stuff I won't be able to afford next year either.

-- Earl Whatley, AF4FG

We had another great Ham Exam Session in August.

We had 5 VE's to process the ham exams.

We had 11 show up to take their ham exams.

Testing results:

5 new Technicians

1 new General (took Technician and General exams)

3 upgrades to General

2 failed Technician

Thanks & 73,

Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License _____ Class _____ Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161

Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Mark Justice

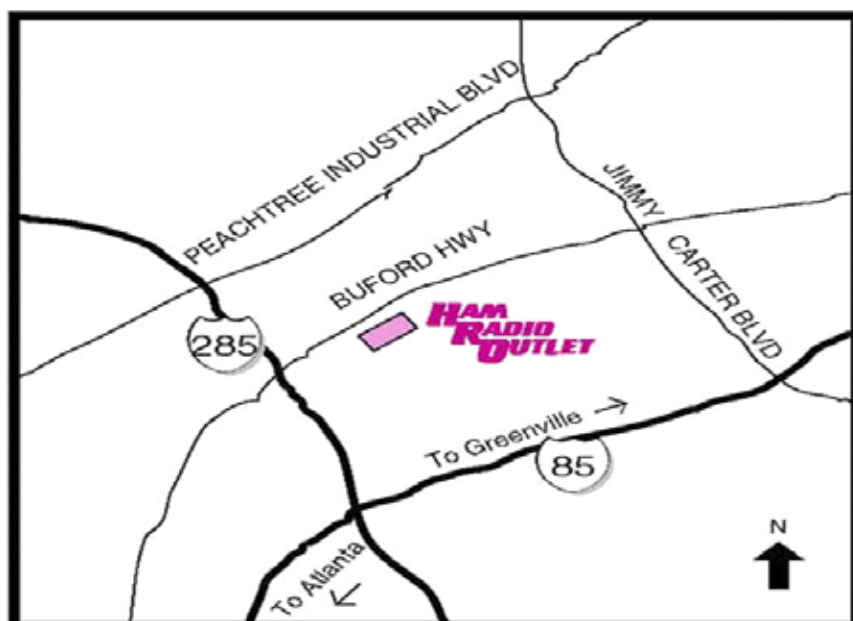
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KJ4VO

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Dale, W4GCL Jim, N1ABM Josh, W4JDH Brian, KC4UKR



**Alinco
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Japan Radio Corp.
Premier
ADI
Yaesu
Alpha Delta
Arrow
Butternut
Create**

**Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Valor
Van Gorden**

Gwinnett Amateur Radio
Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



ARS Recurring Calendar

- *Monthly club meeting* is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: *GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net* on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: *GARS 6 meter net* on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: *GARS Weekly Family Breakfast*, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

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Top Agent**



**Helping "HAMS" with the Sale and
Purchase of their properties takes
Extra Time, Effort and Dedication.
Not every agent is willing to make
that Commitment.
Call me for when You or Your Friends
and Family are ready to Make a Move.**

****References available upon Request**